

(c) whether Lalitha Mahal is a Hotel managed by I.T.D.C. in Mysore;

(d) if so, when it was started and whether the existing building is owned by the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details of the acquisition of the above building?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) I.T.D.C. is operating three hotels in Karnataka as under :

1. Hotel Ashok, Bangalore
2. Hotel Hassan Ashok, Hassan.
3. Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore.

(b) The details of ITDC hotels in Bangalore and Mysore Cities are given below :

Name of Unit	Star Category	Capacity	
		Rooms	Beds
1. Hotel Ashok, Bangalore	5 star	11	362
2. Hotel Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore	5 star	54	108

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. ITDC is operating Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel in Mysore. The Palace property consisting of the main Palace, other buildings and gardens in the premises was taken over on lease for a period of 50 years. The Palace was converted into a hotel and commissioned in Sept. 1974.

Survey for Bidar-Hospet Railway Line

972. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up any survey for laying of a new railway line between Bidar and Hospet via Kalburgi, Jevargi, Shahapur and Sorapur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the above work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The survey has been included in the Budget, 1997-98. The survey work will be taken up, once the Budget is passed.

(c) Does not arise.

Illegal Gratification

973. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Consumer Disputes Redressal

Forum has pulled up the Chief General Manager, MTNL, for ignoring complaints of "illegal gratification" by the linemen for restoring telephones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether complaints lodged with 198 are not attended to promptly relating to faulty telephone apparatus; and

(e) if so, the complaints pending in this regard in the South-I district of MTNL and the reasons for not replacing the faulty telephone apparatus?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). No Sir. However, in a case of Shri M.P. Rajbanshi, the Forum has directed by endorsing copy of the Judgement Order to the CGM, MTNL for compliance. Besides compensation of Rs. 2000/- as damages and rent rebate for 27 days, MTNL has been asked to enquire into the allegations made by subscriber and report by 3.3.97. An appeal has been filed with the State Commission by MTNL which has been listed for hearing on 20.3.97. The matter being subjudice no further comments can be offered at this stage.

(d) No, Sir. They are attended to promptly.

(e) No complaint on 198 relating to faulty telephone apparatus is pending in South-I District of MTNL.

Iron Ore

974. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts in Madhya Pradesh where iron-ore is mined and the number of workers employed in this work in each district;

(b) the production capacity of 'Sponge Iron, Vilaspur' and whether this company has been set up on Government's land or private land;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said company gives priority to local people in employment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As per information received from the Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur, iron ore was mined in three districts of Madhya Pradesh, viz., Bastar, Durg and Jabalpur, the average daily employment in each district being 2403, 9116 and 54 respectively during 1995-96.

(b) There is no unit by the name 'Sponge Iron, Vilaspur'.

(c) to (e). Do not arise in view of reply at (b) above.